

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A product repairing method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a request from a requesting user of a community of users for repairing a product;
 - if a replacement part necessary for said requested repair is in stock:
 - selling said replacement part to said requesting user in response to the request;
 - and
 - providing to said requesting user said product repaired by using said replacement part; and
 - if the replacement part necessary for said requested repair is not in stock:
 - retrieving a plurality of users having previously purchased said replacement part by means of a computer storing a s user data base accumulating transaction history information on members of said community of users ;
 - selecting one of said plurality of users having previously purchased said replacement part, said selected user having quoted a price that does not exceed a ceiling quoted by said requesting user;
 - procuring said replacement part from said selected user ; and
 - providing to said requesting user said product repaired by using said replacement part procured from said selected user.
2. (Previously Presented) The product repairing method according to claim 1, wherein, if said replacement part necessary for the requested repair is not in stock, the step of procuring said replacement part from said selected user includes the steps of:
 - receiving deposit of a price of said replacement part from said requesting user;
 - receiving consignment of said replacement part from said selected user ;
 - supplying said replacement part to said requesting user; and
 - paying the price to said selected user .

3. (Previously Presented) The product repairing method according to claim 1, wherein, if said replacement part necessary for the requested repair is not in stock, the step of retrieving said plurality of users includes the steps of:

disclosing information on the possible procurement of said replacement part to said community of users by way of a web site; and

inputting information on the replacement part to be sold to said web site by any of said plurality of users having an intention of selling the replacement part.

4. (Previously Presented) The product repairing method according to claim 3, wherein said information on the replacement part to be sold includes a suggested price at which said replacement part is to be sold and said selected user is selected when the suggested price does not exceed an upper limit set by said requesting user and is the lowest among suggested prices input by said plurality of users having the intention of selling the replacement part.

5. (Previously Presented) The product repairing method according to claim 1, wherein said request from said requesting user is received by way of a web site.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said replacement part is sold to said requesting user by way of a web site.

7. (Currently Amended) A product repairing apparatus comprising:

an input/output device connectable to a plurality of users, said input/output device having:

a repair reception section adapted to receive an input of a request for a repair of a product from a requesting user of said plurality of users;

a replacement part sales section adapted to input/output information on a possible sale of a replacement part necessary for the requested repair to the requesting user, if the replacement part is in stock; and

a replacement part procuring section adapted to input/output information on a procurement of the replacement part from any of the plurality of users other than said

requesting user, if the replacement part is not in stock; said replacement part procuring section selecting one of said plurality of users having previously purchased said replacement part, said selected user having quoted a price that does not exceed a ceiling quoted by said requesting user; and

a memory device storing as a data base information regarding replacement parts previously purchased by each of said plurality of users.

8. (Previously Presented) The product repairing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said input/output device has an escrow section adapted to receive consignment information of said replacement part input by members of said plurality of users having an intention of selling the replacement part and also to receive deposit information of a price of said replacement part input by said requesting user in order to realize a sale/purchase of the replacement part .

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The product repairing method according to claim 1, wherein, for a member of said community of users, said transaction history information comprises:

contact information for said member;

a quantity of each replacement part purchased by said member;

a price said member paid to purchase each replacement part; and

attempted procurements from said member that had failed because said member quoted a price that exceeded a ceiling quoted by said requesting user.

11. (New) The product repairing method as recited in claim 1, wherein said replacement part includes a first replacement part and a second replacement part and said ceiling quoted by said requesting user consist of a ceiling price for the total of said first and second replacement parts.